IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BICHON et al

Atty. Ref.: 1201-97; Confirmation No.

Appl. No. To be Assigned

Group:

Filed: December 3, 2003

Examiner:

For: GAS OR AIR FILLED POLYMERIC MICROBALLOONS USABLE AS

SUSPENSIONS IN LIQUID CARRIERS FOR ULTRASONIC ECHOGRAPHY

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December 3, 2003

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the application as follows: